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Service To Country

Lecture committee members of study clubs which try to keep abreast of developments in the world at large will probably welcome the opportunity to secure a newcomer to the ranks of lecturers who will be available shortly. She certainly has one of the most interesting backgrounds of anyone looming on the lecture platform horizon.

She is Mrs. Eleanor Lansing Dulles, granddaughter, niece and sister of three U.S. Secretaries of State, who, a recent day, closed her own diplomat's briefcase and stepped out of government service after 26 years.

It was natural enough that 26 of the 28 years were spent in State Department service. Her maternal grandfather was General John Watson Foster, Secretary under Benjamin Harrison. Her uncle, Robert Lansing, was Secretary of State in the Wilson administration, and an older brother, the late John Foster Dulles, served for most of the Eisenhower administration. Another older brother, Allen W. Dulles, was, until very recently, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Eleanor Lansing Dulles, now 66, took her bachelor's degree at Bryn Mawr, and her master's and doctor's degrees at Radcliffe. Economics and government were her "majors" all the way. In 1932 she married Dr. David S. Bronshtam, who insisted that she keep her maiden name for professional use. Her husband died two years after they were married.

After his death Mrs. Dulles continued the teaching as a lecturer at Bryn Mawr and a research associate at the University of Pennsylvania. Her first post with the federal government came in 1938 when she was named chief of the finance division of the Social Security Board. She moved over to the State Department in 1942 as an economics officer and at the end of World War II went to Vienna as financial attache. Her final position in the department was as special assistant to the director of the German affairs service.

The morning after her retirement went into effect Mrs. Dulles boarded a plane for South America to make a study of the economic and political situations in six nations there. In spare moments she will be writing a book on what she calls the inevitable growth of international organizations such as the United Nations.

Among Mrs. Dulles's favorite souvenirs of the last two decades is a German newspaper photograph of her seated next to Arnold Toynbee, the British historian. The picture caption identifies her as Toynbee's wife.

Other prized souvenirs are a 1954 newspaper clipping of the charge by the East German government that Mrs. Dulles directed a spy tunnel into the Communist sector of Berlin, and a telegram from Mayor Willy Brandt of West Berlin dated last January 11 thanking her "for everything you have done for Berlin."

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